

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA**

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M.
Arlington Community Center - Council Chambers

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes.
 - A. May 8, 2017
5. Approval of Financial Reports.
 - A. May 2017
6. Old Business.
 - A. Update on Former Seneca Building
 - B. Workforce Housing Team Update – Request from Sibley County
 - C. 2017 EDA Goals
7. New Business.
 - A. Funding Requests
 - B. Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation – REV Program
8. Board Announcements.
9. Adjourn

**A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.
NO OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL OCCUR AT THIS MEETING**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Dean Bergersen at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Sorenson, Richard Thomes, President Dean Bergersen, Councilmember Tom Hatlestad, Councilmember Michelle Battcher (arrived at 5:34 pm), Angelica Rose (arrived at 5:41 pm) and Tim Kloeckl (arrived at 5:43 pm).

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Director Holly Kreft, Sibley County Community Development Program Manager Amy Newsom, and Sibley County Intern Sierra Fedder.

President Bergersen passed to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Hatlestad, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the May 2017 Financial Report as presented.

Director Kreft provided an update on the former Seneca building. Mr. Dave Siwek, the new owner, turned around quickly and found a tenant for the northern piece of the property, he is leasing that portion of the building to Premier Logistics, out of Glencoe. Premier Logistics works primarily with Cambria to ship out their products. The southern portion of the property was sold to Northland Drying, a start-up company, this is their first property in Minnesota, and they have two other plants in Wisconsin and Michigan. They primarily use rejected food products (i.e. potatoes, carrots and peas), which they dry and turn that dried product in to dog food. There were some concerns early on with Northland Drying using a lot of water and wastewater, but they are working with engineers and will be responsible for any additions that may need to be made to the treatment plant. Northland Drying intends to be operational by late summer, with plans to become fully operational by the first of 2018. Once fully staffed they intend to employ 35-40 people. Premier Logistics will be primarily used for storage and trucking but they intend to employ 5-10 people. Director Kreft contacted Lisa Hughes with DEED about potential funds for the industrial park roadway. Ms. Hughes did recommend moving forward with the grant application at this time. Northland Drying did purchase the Seneca Road as part of their southern half of the property. In meeting with the owners of Northland Drying early on, they have been very amenable to working with the City on a potential easement for a portion of that property. Lisa Hughes stated that the City should get their application in, and should funds become available the City can move forward at that time. Director Kreft is working with the City Administrator and the City Engineer on the application.

Director Kreft provided an update on the Workforce Housing Team. The county board reviewed the proposals for the County Wide Comprehensive Housing Study and had tabled it until 2018 to move forward with the County's 2018 budget. Since that meeting Sibley County Administrator Roxy Traxler has reached out to Director Kreft and the cities of Gaylord and Winthrop, to ask if our three cities can contribute \$3000.00 towards that project. If our three cities can contribute that amount each, Administrator Traxler will bring that to the County Board to move forward at this time and not wait until 2018.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend authorizing up to \$3000.00 for the Sibley County Comprehensive Housing Plan to the City Council.

Director Kreft gave an update on 2017 EDA goals. One of this year's goals was potentially having a joint meeting with the EDA commission, Planning and Zoning commission and the City Council. It was discussed at length. The EDA board didn't see a need at this time. Director Kreft is to contact P & Z Consultant Cynthia Strack and Administrator Donabauer to see if they believe there is a need for a joint meeting.

Direct Kreft explained two funding requests the EDA received. One request was from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund (SMIF) for the amount of \$500.00 and the other from the South Central Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in the amount of \$1000.00. Discussion was had on whether or not the EDA wanted to donate. Thomes stated in other years the EDA has chosen to not donate to SBDC. It was consensus to deny a donation towards SBDC.

Motion by Kloeckl, seconded by Thomes and passed by unanimous vote to recommend to council a \$500.00 donation to Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund (SMIF).

Director Kreft provided information about Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund (SMIF)'s new program, Rural Entrepreneurial Venture. Selected communities will undergo a three-year program to help their community increase Entrepreneurial Venture. Director Kreft contacted Sibley County Community Development Program Manager Amy Newsom to see if the County was doing anything with this new program, and found out that the County has already started the application process. Ms. Newsom further explained that the County is applying, and with talking with SMIF they like to see collaborations between Cities. By collaborating there are better chances of getting chosen for funding. Ms. Newsom needs a representative from Arlington. As long as there are representatives from each City involved, they can move forward with a county- wide collaboration.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Kloeckl, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend the City supporting Sibley County's application to the SMIF REV Program.

President Bergersen received an invitation by the MN Prairie Line Railway for a celebration in Arlington on September 22, 2017 from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm, for a light lunch, short program and locomotive rides.

Director Kreft explained that she will be out of town for the July meeting, it was consensus to not have a meeting in July.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

EDA Director Holly Kreft

EDA President Dean Bergersen